



## **Weekly Parent Bulletin No: 18** **Week Commencing Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026** **Celebrating Student Achievements and Events**

### **Mobile Phones in School**

You may have recently seen news coverage regarding the government's strengthened stance on mobile phones in schools. The Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson, has issued new, tougher guidance stating that schools should be "phone-free environments" throughout the entire school day, including break times and lunchtimes.

We would like to reassure our school community that Dene Magna's current mobile phone policy already meets these national standards. Because our existing rules are already robust and aligned with this "phone-free" expectation, there will be no changes to our daily routines or expectations for students. We remain committed to ensuring our classrooms and social spaces are free from the distractions and pressures that mobile devices can bring.

### **Social Media and Online Safety**

In addition to school-based guidance, the government has launched a national consultation regarding social media usage for those under 16. This reflects a growing focus on protecting young people from online harms and addictive platform features.

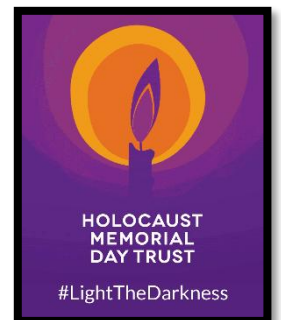
At Dene Magna, online safety remains a core part of our safeguarding and curriculum work. To further support our families:

- The local authority is now providing specialist speakers to help parents navigate the complexities of online safety.
- We are currently in the process of organising a guest speaker to visit the school and deliver a session specifically for parents and carers.

We will provide more information and a date for this event as soon as it is confirmed. We look forward to working together to keep our students safe and focused.

### **Dene Magna Remembers**

27th January marks Holocaust Remembrance Day where people come together to reflect on the atrocities of the Holocaust, as well as commemorating other genocides in the twentieth century - Cambodia, Rwanda, Darfur and Bosnia. Sometimes it feels as if the world is becoming more divided. The messaging from survivors is always one of hope - that we recognise hatred and turn away from it, that we learn to recognise when we are not being given the full picture and question what we see, particularly online and in social media.



Miss Adams delivered assemblies to all year groups this week to speak to students about this year's theme - Bridging Generations. As survivors grow old and pass on, their stories move through their families to the second generation. We are the third generation whose responsibility it is to continue remembering and moving away from our own prejudices.



Ella and Sky in Year 12 have been selected to take part in an incredible educational experience which will include a visit to Auschwitz Concentration Camp in March. They will undertake a whole programme of study with the Holocaust Education Trust which will culminate in them becoming ambassadors to educate those younger than them. To gain a place on the programme, the girls had to write a letter of application, explaining why they should be selected. Miss Eldridge and Mr Mooney were particularly impressed by their dedication in passing Holocaust education on to future generations.



Work begins for the students in March with a seminar in Bristol which includes Holocaust survivor testimony.

## Sporting Update

### EDF Champions – We're Off To Kingsholm Again!!!

Our **U14 Girls' Rugby team** were outstanding at the EDF Cup, lifting the trophy for the second time this season and conceding just one try throughout the tournament.

They topped their pool with impressive wins over Cotswold School (10–0) and Castle School (5–0). Progressing into the knockout stages, the girls defeated Ribston School 3-0, before facing the winners of Pool B, Crypt School, in the final — securing a convincing 4–1 victory.

As EDF Cup champions, the team now progress to play at Kingsholm in April. Throughout the tournament, the girls showed fantastic sportsmanship, determination, and teamwork. A truly superb performance from everyone involved.



The school will be supporting the girls at Kingsholm and will release the date of the game at how to purchase tickets closer to the event. Come on the girls!!

The **U16s Girls** faced Wyedean and FA in the district 7 aside tournament on Tuesday.

The girls played amazing and won their game against Five Acres 2-0 and then drew against Wyedean 1-1.

This means the girls have successfully secured their place at GSFA County Finals on Monday 2nd February @ Cirencester FC. Good luck girls we wish you good luck.

Our **Year 7, 8 and 9 Boys** football teams took on Five Acres on Wednesday.

**Year 7** lost 2-1. The boys played well and dominated possession and chances but a few costly mistakes and great goalkeeping from the opposition led to the defeat. We will be looking for revenge in the return fixture in a few weeks.

**Year 8** lost 3-0 - Again the boys played well and tried to keep the ball and be positive with it but again a few mistakes and missed opportunities led to the defeat. Onwards and upwards.



**Year 9** won 2-0. The boys played well and dominated possession and chances and played some excellent flowing football creating lots of space and chances. A comfortable win which could have seen more goals but for some good goalkeeping from the opposition.

## School Production 2026

### Be Our Guest! Dene Magna Proudly Presents...

Dene Magna is thrilled to announce that our school production for 2026 will be Disney's *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*! This magical tale of love, transformation and enchantment will be brought to life by our talented students from **Wednesday 9th – Friday 11th December 2026**.

### Don't Believe Me? Ask the Dishes!

Auditions are now open! Students interested in performing can sign up in the Drama Studio.

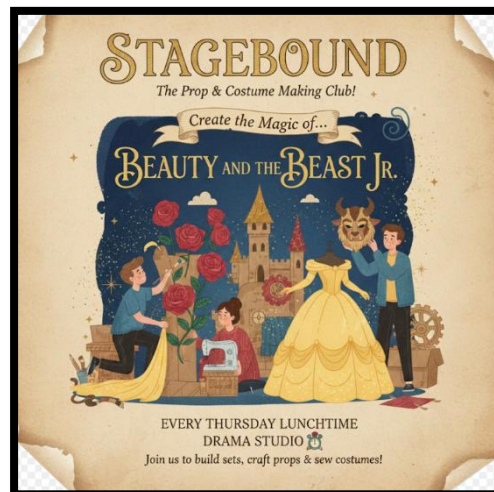
**Save the Date** - Pop the dates in your diary now! We've got high hopes for this production, and we can't wait to see you there!



This year, we are officially offering our wonderful creative students a chance to dive into production for this year's school play! Stagebound is a great opportunity to be hands-on, creating all things theatrical. Club starts after half term (Thursday, 26th February).

To help our students build beautiful sets, props, and costumes without breaking the drama department's budget; we are looking for donations of "upcyclable" materials. If you have any of the following items gathering dust in your garage or craft room, we would love to take them off your hands

- Paint & Supplies: Interior paint (half-cans are fine!), acrylics, spray paint, brushes, rollers, or drop cloths.
- Fabric & Notions: Large fabric scraps, old curtains, duvet covers (clean), table cloths, ribbons, buttons, lace, thread, and anything golden.
- Hardware: Sandpaper, wood glue, polystyrene, furniture foam, large cardboard sections, or painters'/duct tape.



A Note on Quality: While we love a good DIY project, please ensure all donated fabrics are clean and dry. Paint cans are properly sealed and not dried out.

Please bring donations to the Front Office labelled "Stagebound club".

Your support directly impacts the "magic" our students see on stage.

## Science Fair

Year 7 and year 8 will be taking part in a Science fair competition before half term.

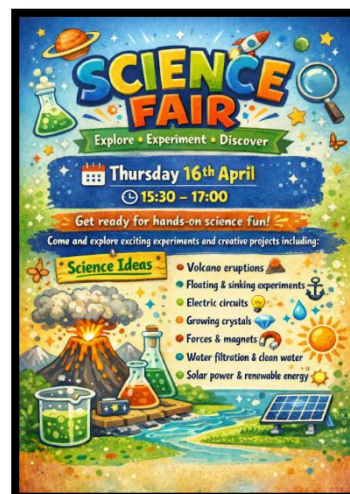
The students will use their own curiosity to develop an experiment to present to the class and winners will present to parents/carers after school on April Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April from 15:30pm - 17:00pm.

The Science teachers are excited to see what ideas and creations the students have.

## Art Competition

The Royal Academy of Arts is running its 8th Young Artists' Competition, giving students the opportunity to showcase their creativity on a national platform. Students can create artwork in any medium, including painting, sculpture, photography, installation, video, drawing, or a combination of media, and may choose any theme they wish. We want students to be imaginative, embrace their own style, and create work that is bold and exciting, allowing their ideas and individuality to shine through their art.

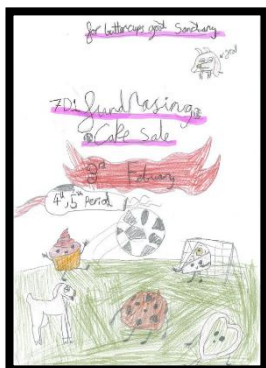
The competition is open to all students aged 4–18 years. Students may submit one entry only, and



exam work cannot be used. Our school is now registered, allowing students to submit their work online with parental consent.

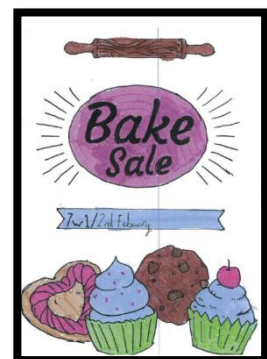
If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Ratcliffe in the Art & DT Department.

## Cake and Sale



**7W1** will be holding a Cake Sale on Monday 2nd February in aid of Cancer Research UK in the main hall at break time, please can all students bring along some change to support this amazing charity that aim to make a difference to so many people and especially ones that we know and love.

**7D1** are putting on a bake sale during Year 7 Interhouse on 3rd Feb to raise money for Buttercups Sanctuary for Goats. We're planning on there being plenty of goodies to choose from!



**7D2** are holding a raffle on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week raising money for Cancer Research. Tickets will be £1 a strip. The draw will take place on Thursday, winners will be told in FRL on Friday.



## New Club Launch

After half term Mrs Ratcliffe will be starting a new club "Crochet & Cake", in T4 during lunchtimes, anyone interested please pop along.

## Dream Makers Update

Watch this space as we launch "Dene Magna Does the Masked Singer" event to be held in school time on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Hosted by our very own Joel Dommert or as we call him Mr Derrick, with a panel of "A" list Dene Magna celebrities and of course fancy costumes.

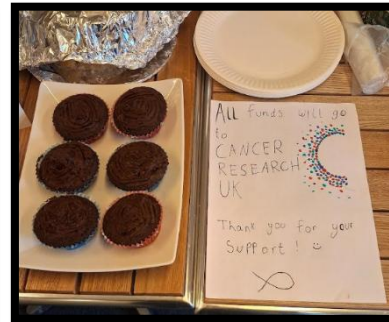
More information will be released as we grow closer to the event, but I can already hear you chanting "take it off, take it off, take it off."



## Celebrating Success

**Ben H** has been asking for weeks to hold his own cake sale for Cancer Research. So, on the weekend he spent Saturday afternoon baking a selection of cakes and then held a sale at our church on Sunday, after the service. He raised £80 from the donations.

We are very proud of his efforts and glad he could help support your tutor 7W1's chosen charity.



**Iona M, Rae B** and **Soraia F** have been in great form for Ruardean Hill Cricket Club over the past fortnight. Excelling at both bowling and fielding, the trio dismissed a total of 7 batters in their team's last two indoor league games. Great work, girls!



## SEN Year 5 Open Morning

Our SEN Department will be holding a Year 5 Open Morning on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March from 9.00am until 11.00am. This is an opportunity to tour the school and meeting the SEN team. For more information please email [sen@denemagn.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:sen@denemagn.gloucs.sch.uk) or ring 01594 542370 Option 6.

**DENE MAGNA**  
**SEN YEAR 5**  
**OPEN MORNING**  
**TUESDAY 24TH MARCH 2026**  
9am-11am School Tours/Meet the SEN Team  
To book a tour and for more information,  
please call us 01594 542370 Option 6  
WWW.DENEMAGNA.CO.UK @DENEMAGNASCHOOL SEN@DENEMAGNA.GLOUCS.SCH.UK BOOK NOW

## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Updates

### Well done, Year 13!

This weekend marks the completion of your Personal Investigation, and what a journey it has been. You have grown so much as artists, developing your own unique styles, ideas and creative direction. We are incredibly proud of your final outcomes, your ginormous sketchbooks, and the commitment you've shown in completing the written element.

A fantastic achievement, well done to you all for securing 60% of your final A Level



### Your Voice Your Views Workshops

6th Form will be running some workshops for Year 13 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February. The workshops are part of a new local initiative called Your Voice Your Views (YVYV), delivered in partnership with the Forest of Dean Council, the Hollie Gazzard Trust, and Forest Fighting Fit.

### What are the sessions about?

The sessions focus on violence against women and girls and wider issues around personal safety, respectful relationships, and social responsibility. They are designed to support our young people as they begin to spend more time independently, socialising, and preparing for life beyond 6th Form, including university.

Students will take part in self-defence workshops and sessions focused on healthy masculinity, respect, and challenging harmful behaviours, including bystander intervention training to help students recognise unsafe situations and understand how to safely step in or seek help. We are looking forward to hearing how they get on!

### Business Breakfast

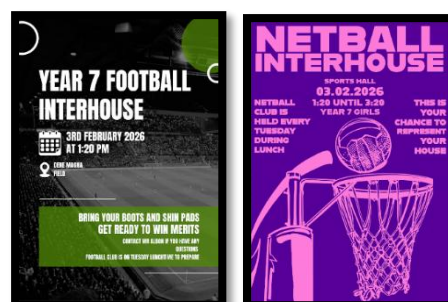
We are looking forward to our next Business Breakfast at 6th Form Campus on 11th February with STEM Ambassador Ian Gower - If any 6th Form students are interested in a potential career in STEM, don't miss out on this amazing opportunity!

Reminder regarding the **Post 18 Options Assembly** with Mrs Balmer - for all Year 12 students on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at Touchdown, Cinderford 6<sup>th</sup> Form Campus.

**History A- Level visit to London coming up** - next weekend, our Year 12 History Students will be visiting London to take part in a series of tours and sessions to support their work on Tudor Britain- we can't wait to hear how they got on!

### Year 7 Inter-House Competitions – 3 February 2026

Year 7 Girls Netball Inter-house 1.20pm until 3.20pm and Football from 1.20pm please meet Mr Albon on the field.



## Post 18 Careers Fair 2026 – 4<sup>th</sup> February from 3pm – 6pm

We hold this event annually at our Sixth Form for our Year 12 and 13 students and usually have approximately 30 exhibitors. Our Year 11's also attend this event during school time and a letter will be sent home with further details shortly.

All students and their parents/carers from any year group are welcome to attend from 3pm - 6pm from both inside and outside the school community. Please help spread the word!

Current confirmed exhibitors are Amazon, Bath Spa University, Boom Satsuma, Bristol School of Acting, CACI, Cardiff University, Crowe LLP, Forest Sports Education, GET, GITEP, Hereford College of Arts (HCA), Institute of Chemical Engineers, University of Exeter, University of Gloucestershire, University of South Wales, University of Worcester and Oxford Brookes

If any local employers would like to attend please email our Careers Lead, Jo Rich: [j.rich@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:j.rich@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk)

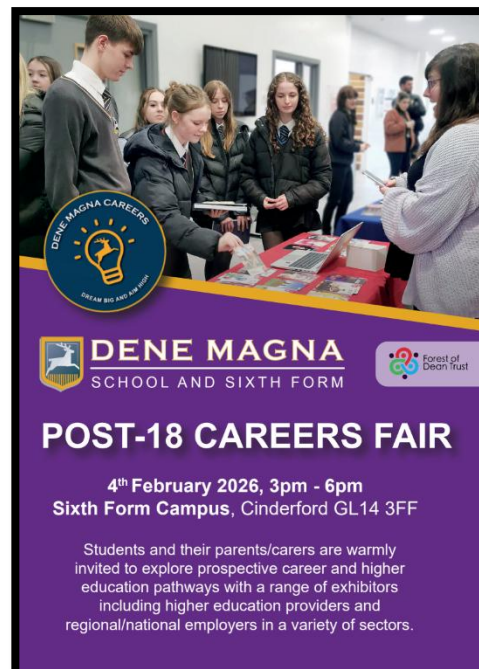
## Gloucestershire Beyond-16 SEND Event – 7 February 2026

Join us for a FREE event designed especially for **Year 10 and 11 students with SEND and their parents/carers**—with a warm welcome to anyone from **Year 7 upwards** who wants to begin exploring future pathways. This event will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> February from 10.00am until 1.00pm at Taylored Mentoring Services, 76 Kingsholm Road, GL1 3BD. Free parking and refreshments are available. This is a great opportunity to start things ahead and discover the pathways that could be right for your young person.

Families will have the chance to meet **local providers, colleges, training organisations and support services** to help plan the next steps **beyond Year 11**. To help make the event as comfortable as possible, **smaller breakout spaces will be available** for those who may prefer a quieter environment. To register your interest please click on this link. [Register your interest today!](#)

## Okinawa Fund Raising

Team Okinawa are fund raising for their upcoming visit. They are selling roses for Valentine's Day, £2.00 a rose these can be purchased from the Okinawa Team and Miss Eade at break times in the Hall, or go and see Miss Eade in her classroom.



## RSHE Update

This term the topics we will be studying are:

Year 7 - Conflict Resolution, Healthy Living & Puberty, Substance Misuse

Year 8 - Future Me, Knife Crime, Role Models & Stereotyping, Online Safety

Year 9 - Conflict Resolution, Finance, Fake News, Online Safety

Year 10 - Sexism & Misogyny, Independent Living, County Lines, Peer on Peer Abuse

Year 11 - Independent Living, Fake News, Body Image.

## My Child at School App

Please can we ask that any updates to student's personal information, parents emergency contact details, email addresses and medical conditions be added via the "My Child At School" app

## Outside Achievements

If your son/daughter takes part in any activities outside of school and you would like their achievements published in the weekly bulletin, please send in a small paragraph or two about them and their success and a photo to [reception@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:reception@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk).

## Prom Gowns 2026

With many years' experience and fabulous designers you are sure to find exactly what you are looking for at By Design. With strict school exclusivity for each dress, you can be confident you will be wonderfully unique at your prom

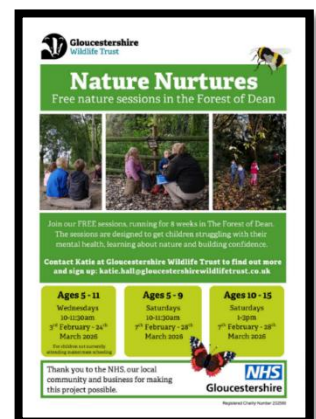
## Supporting Mental Health

Nature Nurtures is a program at Gloucestershire Wildlife which aims to support young people who are struggling with their mental health. The activities across the 8 weeks focus on improving their confidence and connection to nature. This is a free series of sessions that families can sign up for individually, running in The Forest of Dean.

The sessions begin at the start of February, and places have started book up already so sign up ASAP if you'd like a space!

## Sessions are as follows:

- ❖ Ages 5 to 11 on Wednesdays from 10am to 11.30am, from 3 Feb – 26 March.
- ❖ Ages 5 – 9 on Saturdays from 10am to 11.30am, from 7 Feb – 24 March
- ❖ Ages 10 – 15 on Saturdays from 1pm to 3pm, from 7 Feb – 24 March.







On this one day workshop you'll be able to dye fabric using plant materials. You'll see how we can obtain several colours and a range of tones from one dye bath. We'll go on to over dye previously dyed fabric, and we'll use the exciting technique of shibori to create patterns on our dyed fabric. Shibori refers to creating resist in fabric by, for example, pinching, clamping, wrapping it, before dyeing it, you probably know about tie-dyeing – the creative potential is huge. By the end of the day you'll be really keen to do more!

Cost: £75/ \*£55 concessions including materials

To book email [dan@artspacecinderford.org](mailto:dan@artspacecinderford.org), or call on 01594 825111 or drop into the Artspace building.

### **Pet Portrait Embroidery Workshop with Becky Mackay – Transform Your Furry Friend into Art!**

Bring Your Pet's Photo to Life with Stitching at the Pet Portrait Embroidery Saturday Workshop at Artspace Cinderford on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March from 10.30am until 4.30pm



Join fellow animal lovers and craft enthusiasts for a cosy, creative escape. Under the guidance of experienced embroiderer Becky Mackay, aka [@artsforanimals](https://www.instagram.com/artsforanimals), you'll learn how to transform a photo of your furry companion into a stunning stitched portrait – the perfect gift for yourself or a loved one. No prior experience needed – just bring your love for pets and a willingness to try something new. Tea, treats and good company included.

Cost: £60/ \*£45 concessions including materials

To book a place or for more information, call 01594 825111 or email [dan@artspacecinderford.org](mailto:dan@artspacecinderford.org)

**Create Unique Sound & Visual Art** - Join Heather Hughes' Tape Loop Collages Workshop on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30am – 1.30pm at Artspace.

You're warmly invited to join Heather Hughes for a truly unique workshop at Artspace - **Lo-Fi Loop Collages**.

On this one-day workshop you'll explore the art of creating tape loop collages. A creative, hands-on process combining sound, memory, and visual art. Using recycled cassette tapes, you'll learn how to cut, splice and loop magnetic tape to create your own sonic artwork. You'll be encouraged

to record sounds, voices or ambient textures to develop your own concept, and experiment with collaging the tape itself into tactile visual pieces.

This workshop celebrates the beauty of lo-fi sound and the poetry of reuse; where old media becomes something entirely new. Each participant will take home a unique looping cassette, alongside the skills to keep experimenting. All materials provided (you're welcome to bring an old tape to collage if you wish).



**Cost: £40/ \*£30 concessions** including materials. To book or for more information, use the link below, call 01594 825111 or email [dan@artspacecinderford.org](mailto:dan@artspacecinderford.org)

Have a great weekend.

Declan Mooney  
Headteacher

- 30.01.26 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Instalment of £52.00 for the Year 8 London Trip
- 01.02.26 – 7<sup>th</sup> Instalment of £200 for the Okinawa Visit
- 01.02.26 - 4<sup>th</sup> Instalment of £200 for the Barcelona Visit
- 02.02.26 – U16 Girls County Football Finals @ Cirencester
- 03.02.26 – RS Visit to Glos Cathedral & Mosque
- 03.02.26 – Year 7 Inter-house Netball & Football from 1.20pm.
- 03.02.26 – Year 10 Boys Table Tennis versus Five Acres
- 03.02.26 – U12s Girls District Football @ Newent
- 03.02.26 – U14s Girls District Football @ Dene Academy
- 05.02.26 – Year 11 GCSE PE Practice Moderation – Football and Netball @ Dene Magna after school.
- 06.02.26 – Famelab School Final
- 09.02.26 – U14s Girls County Football Finals @ Cirencester
- 10.02.26 – U12s Girls County Football Finals @ Cirencester
- 10.02.26 – Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
- 12.02.26 – Year 11 GCSE PE Practice Moderation – Handball @ Dene Magna
- 13 & 14.02.26 – Year 12 London Trip
- 13.02.26 – Break Up for Half Term
- 18.02.26 – Final Instalment of £40 for the Year 9 Camp Trip
- 23.02.26 – Start of New Term
- 27.02.26 – 4<sup>th</sup> Instalment of £52.00 for the Year 8 London Trip